

FUEL EFFICIENCY CHECKLIST

ON THE ROAD:

- ☐ Watch your speed
- ☐ Avoid aggressive driving
- ☐ Avoid unnecessary idling
- ☐ Combine errands
- ☐ Use cruise control
- ☐ Remove excess weight
- ☐ Use the lowest octane for your vehicle
- ☐ Avoid left turns

AT THE GARAGE:

- ☐ Keep your engine tuned
- ☐ Keep your tires properly inflated
- ☐ Change your oil
- ☐ Check air filters regularly



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Sources:

- FTC Consumer Alert—September 2005
- www.fueleconomy.gov
- www.epa.gov

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Driving for Fuel Efficiency

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The Benefits:

There are numerous benefits to driving with a mind toward fuel efficiency. With gas prices averaging over \$4 / gallon, saving money is certainly a benefit we can all get behind. But what about air quality?

The average light-duty vehicle sold in the U.S. in 2006 gets an estimated 20.2 miles per gallon. This equates to over 7 tons of CO₂ and nearly 150 pounds of smog-forming air pollutants per year (assuming 15,000 miles driven per year).

New technologies are being developed to reduce and hopefully eliminate the harmful effects of automobiles. When looking for a new vehicle, consider buying a hybrid or a vehicle that runs on alternative fuels such as natural gas. Until that time, please consider the following methods to increase your fuel efficiency, save the air and pad your pocketbook.

ON THE ROAD:

Stay within the posted speed limits—

Fuel mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour.

Stop aggressive driving—

You can improve your fuel mileage up to five percent around town if you avoid “jackrabbit” starts and stops by anticipating traffic conditions and driving gently.

Avoid excessive idling—

A mere 10 seconds of idling uses as much fuel as shutting off the vehicle and restarting it.

Combine errands—

Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.

Use overdrive gears and cruise control—

They improve the fuel economy of your car when you’re driving on a highway.

Remove excess weight from the trunk—

An extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce a typical car’s fuel economy by up to two percent.

Avoid packing items on top of your car—

A loaded roof rack or carrier creates wind resistance and can decrease fuel economy by five percent.

Use the lowest octane fuel for your vehicle—

Your owner’s manual recommends the most effective octane level for your car. For most cars, the recommended gasoline is regular octane. Unless your engine is knocking, buying higher octane gasoline is a waste of money.

Avoid left turns—

Left turns involve excessive idling while waiting for oncoming traffic. Plan your route with as few left turns as possible.

AT THE GARAGE:

Keep your engine tuned—

Tuning your engine according to your owner’s manual can increase fuel mileage by an average of four percent.

Keep your tires properly inflated & aligned—

It can increase fuel mileage up to three percent.

Change your oil—

According to the DOE and EPA, you can improve your fuel mileage by using the manufacturer’s recommended grade of motor oil. Motor oil that says “Energy Conserving” on the performance symbol of the American Petroleum Institute contains friction-reducing additives that can improve fuel economy.

Check and replace air filters regularly—

Replacing clogged filters can increase fuel mileage up to ten percent.

